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fornia, all of little or no value, have each a paragraph; yet *Q. chrysolepis*, the only good oak of that coast is entirely ignored. Moreover, while the white oak is discussed in but little more than half a page, more than four pages are devoted to the chestnut. Somewhat more, too, as to the relative values of the different species would have added greatly to the usefulness of the book, which, in spite of the blemishes alluded to, is a valuable one.—*C. E. B.*

SCUDDER'S NOMENCLATOR ZOOLOGICUS.¹—The compiler of this laborious work has rendered a most important service to descriptive zoölogy, and has saved working zoölogists an immense amount of research. It comprises a list of all genera established previous to 1880, which have not been recorded or are erroneously given in the nomenclators of Agassiz and Marschall, or the indexes of the *Zoological Record*; the number of such entries being 15,939. Besides these it also includes the genera of the *Zoological Record* for 1878 and '79 (2133 names, which had not been entered in the MS. of the second part, or Universal Index, at the time of its preparation); 2d, the genera in the index of *Zoologischer Jahresbericht* for 1879, not otherwise given; 3d, all genera, whether previously recorded correctly or not, which were furnished by the authors themselves, and a few other names.

The aid afforded by a number of working naturalists, who have sent the compiler lists of the genera proposed by them, has been very valuable, especially the MS. additions and corrections which the late Professor Agassiz had made to his Nomenclator.

The second part, or "Universal Index," will contain, with its cross references, about 80,000 entries, including all names appearing either in the first part of the present work, or in the nomenclators of Agassiz and of Marschall, or in the indexes of the *Zoological Record* through that for the year 1877.

The Smithsonian Institution proposes hereafter to issue decennial supplements to this list, and naturalists in all parts of the world are invited to send annually to the institution lists of the genera and subgenera which they have proposed during the preceding year.

In the Nomenclator the name of each genus and subgenus is given, with the name of the proposer, the periodical or work in which it appears as well as the page, derivation, year and the order and sometimes the family to which it belongs.

REVUE DES TRAVEAUX SCIENTIFIQUES.—The Department of Public Instruction and Fine Arts, France, has commenced the issue of a monthly review, under the charge of the Committee of Historic and Scientific Works, composed of twenty-three of the

¹ *Department of the Interior*: U. S. National Museum, 22. Bulletin of the U. S. National Museum No. 19, Nomenclator Zoologicus. By SAMUEL H. SCUDDER. Part 1, Supplemental List. Washington, 1882. 8vo, pp. 376.

most celebrated professors of the various sciences, with M. H. Milne-Edwards for president, Messrs. Faye and Wurtz for vice-presidents.

This review will contain not only the reports of the monthly proceedings of the committee, but also summary analyses, or at least notices relative to all the most important scientific works published in France or abroad.

As evidenced by the issue of 1881, this review will prove valuable to students in every department of science; the notices are often very full, amounting to a condensation of the work reviewed; no branch is neglected, and the list of names upon the committee is sufficient guarantee for the excellence of the work.

HOVEY'S CELEBRATED AMERICAN CAVES.¹—This work contains a full and well-written popular account of several of the principal caves of the United States, including Mammoth, Wyandot, Luray, Weyer's, Howe's, etc. Much space is devoted to the Mammoth, which holds its own as by far the largest, grandest and longest of the series of water-worn passages and domes in the limestone strata that has yet been explored. Its known avenues amount to 223, and their length equals 150 miles, though much of this is not entered by visitors. The reader is conducted through fairy grottoes and gothic arcades, among labyrinths and over bottomless pits, until finally he emerges bewildered by the multiplicity and strangeness of the objects to be seen, and enriched by much information respecting the history and scientific aspects of the vast cavern.

Wyandot cave, Indiana, has twenty-three and a half miles of explored avenues, and contains domes and stalactitic formations that equal in beauty those of its larger rival. Weyer's, in the Shenandoah valley, would be considered a wonderful cave, were it not for the fairy scenes offered by the newer and neighboring Luray.

These caves are but the largest known out of thousands that stud the limestone regions of Kentucky, Virginia and Indiana, proofs of the power of water, impregnated with carbonic acid, in wearing away the solid rock to the drainage level. In this region every hill has its face grooved and furrowed, and the small streams disappear down sink-holes into the caverns below, to gather together and reappear at the foot of the bluffs, as strong springs or small rivers.

The fauna of the Mammoth cave, with its thirty-six species, is rich compared with that of Luray, which consist only of a few bats, rats, spiders, flies and a single myriopod (*Synopopus whitei*). The curious *Mucor stalactitis* Hovey, occurs also in this cave.

¹*Celebrated American Caverns*, especially Mammoth, Wyandot and Luray, together with historical, scientific and descriptive notices of caves and grottoes in other lands. By HORACE C. HOVEY. With maps and illustrations. Cincinnati, Robert Clarke & Co., 1882.